



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

23 JUNE 2021



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MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL - 23 JUNE 2021



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL HELD 23 JUNE 2021 IN ST KILDA TOWN HALL

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

PRESENT

Cr Crawford (Chairperson), Cr Baxter, Cr Bond, Cr Clark, Cr Copsey, Cr Cunsolo, Cr Martin, Cr Pearl, Cr Sirakoff.

IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Lili Rosic, General Manager Development Transport and City Amenity, Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Chris Carroll, General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure, Kylie Bennetts, General Manager City Growth and Organisational Capability. Rachel Russell, Manager Governance and Organisational Performance, Kirsty Pearce, Head of Governance, Rebecca Purvis, Governance Officer, Liam O’Cathasaigh, Council Meetings Officer, Dennis O’Keeffe, Chief Financial Officer, Peter Lui, Head of Management Accounting and Financial Analysis.

The City of Port Phillip respectfully acknowledges the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

3.1 Council Plan 2021-31, Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan, Revenue & Rating Plan and Budget 2021/22: Adoption

The following submissions were made verbally and can be listened to in full on our website:
<http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php>

Josh Szentel

Rowan Measday

Emily Millward

Dan Peel

Ron Burggraf

Bruce Armstrong

John Spierings

Rhonda Small

Judy Gunson

Rob Mahoney

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The following submissions were submitted prior to the meeting and were read out in summary by the Head of Governance:

Victoria Wilding

Jason Rouda

Janice Harper

The following questions were taken on notice during the discussion of the item:

Councillor Sirakoff asked how many staff do we currently have working in the sustainability area and could these existing officers complete the work required by item 3.5.3 (c) of the recommendation.

Kylie Bennetts, General Manager City Growth and Organisational Capability, took the question on notice.

Councillor Pearl provided two examples of unemployment and asked if they would qualify as 'unemployed' in relation to item 3.5.3 (a) of the recommendation.

Chris Carroll, General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure, took the question on notice.

Purpose

- 1.1 For Council to formally consider and respond to public submissions and adopt the Council Plan 2021-2031, including the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Financial Plan, the Revenue and Rating Plan, the Budget 2021/22 and the declaration of rates and charges.

The Mayor noted that the recommendation has been prepared in sections, and due to its complexity, some sections would further be taken in part.

SECTION 1

Moved Crs Clark/Sirakoff

- 3.1 The City of Port Phillip resolves not to increase rates for the 2021-22 Budget as a gesture of goodwill toward ratepayers, residences, and business and in fairness to ratepayers and in response to the Council's declaration of an Economic Emergency in 2020. Council acknowledges that rates are high in Port Phillip when compared with other Councils and that the compound growth of property valuations and Council rates has resulted in unsustainable rates for every ratepayer and especially those impacted by the COVID pandemic. Council will fund the rate freeze which will cost approximately \$2 million in forgone revenues (or 0.9% of expenditure) to provide rate relief for residents and businesses in Port Phillip.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was LOST.

A vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

The MOTION was LOST.

Moved Crs Baxter/Martin

That Council:

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- 3.1 Notes the forecast financial improvement of \$2.60 million which brings the forecast cumulative cash surplus to \$5.03 million for 2020/21.
- 3.2 Notes and endorses a 1.5 percent average rate increase for 2021/22 in line with the rates cap set by the Victorian Government.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

The MOTION was CARRIED.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a break at 8.54pm

The meeting resumed at 9.05pm.

SECTION 2

Moved Crs Cunsolo/Crawford

That Council:

- 3.3 Approves the following service reductions in the budget, to be considered in part:

Moved Crs Cunsolo/Crawford

- 3.3.1 Cease Sport Phillip & Community programs \$107,000

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Bond/Pearl

- 3.3.2 Cease free access to Ripponlea Gardens \$50,000

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

The MOTION was LOST.

Moved Crs Copsey/Crawford

- 3.3.3 Change to a booking system for access to Community Transport service \$123,000

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

Moved Crs Copsey/Pearl

- 3.3.4 Cease funding deed – Neighbourhood Ngargees \$11,000

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

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Moved Crs Copsey/Bond

- 3.3.5 Reduce Quality Subsidy for Community Managed Child Care from 5% to 4%
\$141,000

AMENDMENT

Moved Crs Cunsolo/Crawford

- 3.3.5 Reduces Quality Subsidy for Community Managed Child Care from 5% to 4%
\$141,000, and commences implementation in 2022/23, noting that there will be no
reduction to this service in the 21/22 financial year's budget.

The AMENDMENT was LOST.

A DIVISION was called.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

The AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

The AMENDMENT became the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

The MOTION was PUT under division.

FOR: Crs Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl, Clark and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Baxter and Copsey

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Bond/Pearl

- 3.3.6 Changes to Arts Programs \$56,000

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl, Clark and Martin

AGAINST: Cr Copsey

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Copsey/Bond

- 3.3.7 Design Awards to be online only (one-year trial) \$10,000

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

Moved Crs Cunsolo/Sirakoff

- 3.3.8 Remove Counter Service at South Melbourne Town Hall – to be reviewed post
building works \$50,000

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

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Moved Crs Pearl/Bond

- 3.3.9 Reduce budget for Ride2School Day, Healthy Tracks, Ride2Work, Festival of Everyday Riding programs \$15,000

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Crawford, Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl, Clark and Martin

AGAINST: Cr Baxter, Cunsolo and Copsey

The MOTION was CARRIED.

SECTION 3

Moved Crs Pearl/Cunsolo

- 3.4 Approves a one-off spend on an economic and cultural recovery package to be funded from 2020/21 cash surplus for:
- 3.4.1 Rental Deferral and Waivers - South Melbourne Market (Only above \$250k p.a. turnover given state gov assistance of \$2,500) for 2 weeks at an estimated cost of \$133,000.
 - 3.4.2 Waivers of Rent for Tenants in Council Properties (including Artist studios) (excluding Palais which is already receiving support) for 2 weeks at an estimated cost of \$118,000.
 - 3.4.3 Esplanade Market fee reduction for two weekends at an estimated cost of \$9,600.
 - 3.4.4 Homework Club program extension to address waiting list for Public Housing Estate residents and increase resilience to barriers to learning with home schooling at a cost of \$15,000.
 - 3.4.5 South Melbourne Market 1 day closure – provide a one day rent waiver for south Melbourne market traders for Wednesday 16 June 2021, as the South Melbourne Market was required to close to enable cleaning to occur as it was listed as a COVID exposure site at an estimated cost of \$36,000
 - 3.4.6 Notes this funding reduces the forecast cumulative cash surplus for 2020/21 by \$311,600.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

SECTION 4

Moved Crs Crawford/Copsey

- 3.5 Having considered all the submissions received and those heard at the Special Meeting of 8 June 2021, and having completed its budget deliberations, agrees to include in the Budget 2021/22 the following:
- 3.5.1 Extend 1-year support for Arts Organisations with triennial funding ceasing, given COVID impact on arts sector, at a cost of \$180,000 and include Triennial funding ongoing based on a competitive process and notes that a further report will be brought into a future Council meeting regarding the criteria and grant assessment process.

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The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Copsey, Martin and Pearl
AGAINST: Crs Sirakoff and Clark

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Baxter/Crawford

3.5.2 Continuing the Food Organic Green Organic recycling trial for Elwood for another two financial years at an estimated cost of \$105,000 including 0.5 FTE in 2021/22 (total \$225,000 over two years).

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a break at 10.03pm.

The meeting resumed at 10.31pm.

Moved Crs Martin/Copsey

3.5.3 That the Mayor calls for motions for additional changes to the Budget 2021/22, and that these motions be considered by Council in part.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey, Martin and Sirakoff
AGAINST: Cr Bond
ABSTAIN: Crs Clark and Pearl

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Baxter/Martin

3.5.3 a) Adjust the existing rates waiver scheme for the 2021/22 rating year only to increase to 50% waiver on council rates up to a maximum of \$1500 and delegates to the CEO the authority to refine the criteria to ensure eligibility of COVID impacted unemployed at an estimated cost of \$825,000, including \$75,000 administration costs and updates clause 3.12 of the recommendation with this clause.

b) Increase the Council pensioner rebate for the 2021/22 rating year only to \$200 (maximum) to those persons who satisfy eligibility requirements noting that the total value of the combined State Government rebate of approximately \$241 (maximum) and Council rebate will not exceed 50% of the general rate payable for the financial year at an estimated cost of \$70,000; and updates clause 3.12 of the recommendation with this clause.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin
AGAINST: Crs Bond, Clark, Pearl and Sirakoff

The MOTION was CARRIED.

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Moved Crs Copsey/Crawford

3.5.3 c) Addition of \$20,000 to the 2021/22 budget to deliver community based programs including Environmental Leaders and the Sustainable Business Network and notes that in the event additional staff resources are required to deliver the sustainability program of work during the financial year, that officers will bring this before the Council through the quarterly budget review process.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin
AGAINST: Cr Bond, Clark, Pearl and Sirakoff

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Baxter/Crawford

3.5.3 d) Adds \$50,000 per annum to reinstate free access to Ripponlea Gardens for Port Phillip residents.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin
AGAINST: Cr Bond, Clark, Pearl and Sirakoff

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Cunsolo/Copsey

3.5.3 e) Adds \$141,000 to the 2021/22 budget to reinstate the quality subsidy for community managed childcare from 4% to 5% for 2021/22 only.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin
AGAINST: Crs Bond, Clark and Sirakoff
ABSTAIN: Cr Pearl

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Moved Crs Crawford/Martin

3.5.3 f) Addition of \$15,000 per month for 3 months, being \$45,000 in 2021/22, to Port Phillip Community Group for food relief for vulnerable/disadvantaged residents, and asks Port Phillip Community Group to, wherever possible and feasible, source this food relief through local businesses and traders.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin
AGAINST: Crs Bond, Clark and Sirakoff
ABSTAIN: Cr Pearl

The MOTION was CARRIED.

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Moved Crs Crawford/Cunsolo

- 3.5.3 g) Additional \$200,000 in 2021/22 to support economic development activities in the municipality, and requests that officers work with the Business Advisory Group and Council to develop specific initiatives for implementation as soon as possible to support our business community

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsy and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Clark and Sirakoff

ABSTAIN: Cr Pearl

The MOTION was CARRIED.

SECTION 5

Moved Crs Copsy/Martin

- 3.6 Notes the financial changes identified and incorporated into Budget 2021/22 in **Attachment 7** of this report.
- 3.7 Notes the community engagement findings summarised in Section 5.
- 3.8 Adopts the Council Plan 2021-31, which includes the (10-year) Financial Plan, the Revenue and Rating Plan, the Budget 2021/22 and the 10-year community vision as set out in **Attachments 1-3**.
- 3.9 Notes that the Council Plan 2021-31 replaces the current Council Plan 2017-2027, endorsed by Council on 19 August 2020.
- 3.10 Delegates authority to the CEO to reflect any changes made by Council at tonight's meeting, which are not reflected in Attachments 1-3, to make minor typographical corrections or changes to images before final publication and to make editorial changes to the Plan that reflect any changed obligations to Council required by state government agencies.
- 3.11 Responds in writing to those that have made formal written submissions, to advise them of the outcome of Council's decision.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Clark, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsy, Martin, Pearl and Sirakoff

AGAINST: Cr Bond

The MOTION was CARRIED.

SECTION 6

Moved Crs Martin/Baxter

- 3.12 Declares rates and charges for Budget 2021/22 as required by Section 94 of the Local Government Act for the following:
- 3.12.1 An amount of \$135,720,349 to be raised by general rates and service charges for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

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- 3.12.2 A uniform general rate in the dollar of 3.8181 cents in the dollar on the 2021 Net Annual Value of all rateable properties within the municipality.
- 3.12.3 An annual garbage charge of \$362 per tenement on all non-rateable properties that receive waste management services from the City of Port Phillip.
- 3.12.4 An annual garbage bin surcharge of \$201 for tenements that are provided with a 240-litre bin for the collection of non-recyclable waste.
- 3.12.5 The properties on **Attachment 8** to be “Recreational Lands” and that the level of charges for these properties be set in accordance with percentages of the general rate also shown in this attachment.
- 3.12.6 Grants a rebate equivalent to half the general rate for the elderly persons flats as outlined in **Attachment 9**, in accordance with the agreement between Council and the Ministry of Housing.
- 3.12.7 Subject to the consent of the Minister for Local Government, treats any person(s) who has been excused the prescribed amount of the general rate for the year ending 30 June 2021 in accordance with the State Concessions Act 2004 as being similarly eligible for 2021/22.
- 3.12.8 Increase the Council pensioner rebate for the 2021/22 rating year only to \$200 (maximum) to those persons who satisfy eligibility requirements noting that the total value of the combined State Government rebate of approximately \$241 (maximum) and Council rebate will not exceed 50% of the general rate payable for the financial year at an estimated cost of \$70,000.
- 3.12.9 Adopts the penalty interest rate in accordance with the Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983 at the prescribed rate (10%) as at 1 July 2021 fixed by the Governor in Council for general rates and charges that remain unpaid after the payment dates prescribed by the Governor in Council.
- 3.12.10 Notes ratepayers who have been assessed as being in financial hardship, due to the COVID19 Pandemic, will be eligible for interest free payment plans and deferment, and/or waiver up to \$1500 in conjunction with Council’s revised Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy.
- 3.12.11 Confirms the previously declared special rate schemes for 2021/22:
- Port Melbourne Business Precinct for Marketing, Management and Business Development to the Maximum of \$260,000.
 - Fitzroy Street and Environs Business Precinct for Marketing, Management and Business Development to the Maximum of \$216,700
 - Acland Street Village Business Precinct for Marketing, Management and Business Development to the Maximum of \$195,000
- 3.12.12 Adopts the following payment dates and due dates:

Payment Type Description	Due Date	Interest from
Full payment	15 Feb, 2022	Same as instalments
1 st Instalment	30 Sept, 2021	1 October, 2021
2 nd Instalment	30 Nov, 2021	1 December 2021

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3 rd Instalment	28 Feb, 2022	1 March, 2022
4 th Instalment	31 May, 2022	1 June, 2022

3.12.12 Authorises the Coordinator Revenue and Valuations to collect all rates and charges and the Fire Services Property Levy.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Clark, Pearl and Sirakoff

The MOTION was CARRIED.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.16pm.

Confirmed: 7 July 2021

Chairperson _____